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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON
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P 082223Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR FORCED ADOPTION OF CHILDREN OF ESCAPEES

1. GDR EMBASSY HAS RESPONDED TO RECENT WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL CRITICIZING GDR FORCED ADOPTION POLICY.

2. JANUARY 8 WASHINGTON POST PRINTED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESS ATTACHE PROTSCH:

BEGIN TEXT:

IN YOUR EDITION OF DECEMBER 28, YOU DEVOTED AN EDITORIAL TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. INDEED, A RARE INSTANCE FOR YOUR PAPER TO REPORT ON THE GDR. IT IS ALL THE MORE DEPLORABLE, THEREFORE, THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE BASES HIMSELF ON DELIBERATELY CIRCULATED FALSE REPORTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN REFUTED ON DECEMBER 23 BY
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AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS OF THE GDR. LET ME SAY THIS UNAMBIGUOUSLY: THERE IS NO SUCH THING IN THE GDR AS FORCED POLITICAL ADOPTION. IN THIS CONTEXT, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF CORRESPONDING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GDR AND THE FRG, MILLIONS

OF CITIZENS FROM BOTH STATES HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT EACH OTHER AND THAT THOUSANDS OF CITIZEN HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THE FRG WITH THE OFFICIAL PERMISSION OF THE COMPETENT GDR AUTHORITIES. AMONG THEM WERE MANY CHILDREN WHO JOINED THEIR PARENTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IT IS NOT NEW TO US THAT, WHENEVER THE GDR IS CONCLUDING FURTHER AGREEMENTS WITH THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN ON THE NORMALIZATION OF ITS RELATIONS, AS IT HAS BEEN THE CASE RECENTLY, KNOWN ADVERSARIES OF THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE INVENT AND SPREAD NEW VILIFICATION. HOWEVER, PRECISELY THE MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE TAKEN IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO ENSURE THAT HAPPINESS, JOY, HEALTH AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HELD IN PARTICULAR HIGH REGARD IN MANY COUNTRIES, EVEN BY ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM. IN THE UNITED STATES, TOO, WE ARE ASKED ABOUT THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AS ONLY A FEW FACTS, REGRETTABLY, ARE KNOWN ABOUT THE GDR. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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